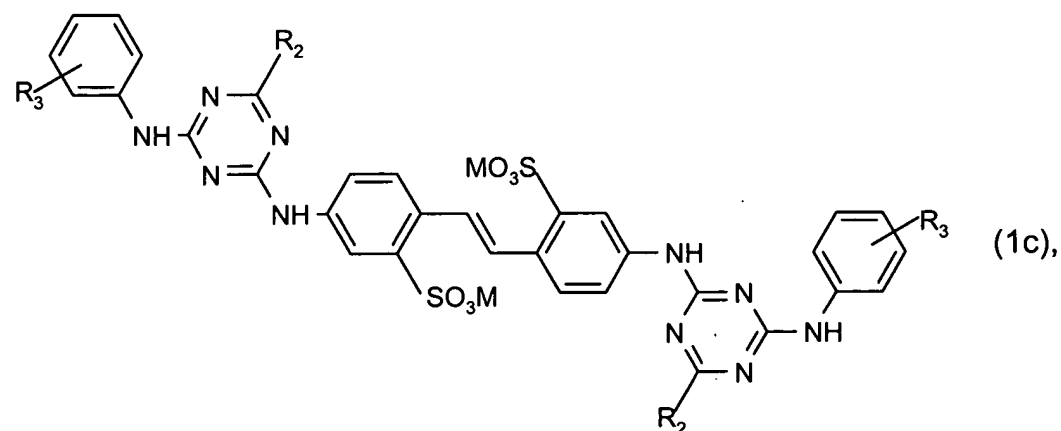
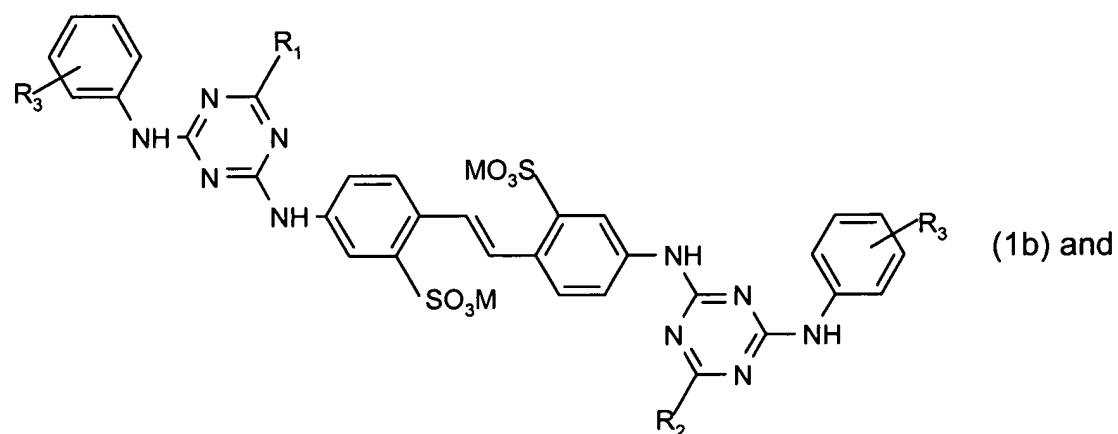
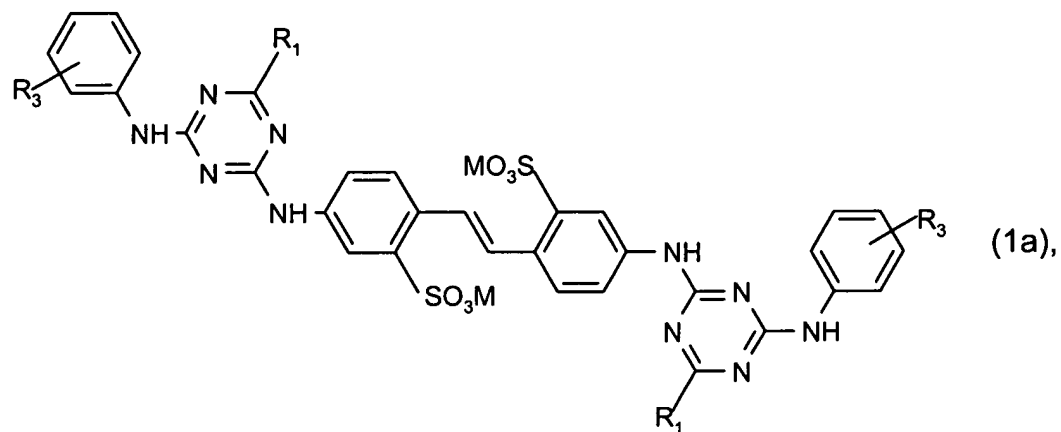


## In the Claims

1. (original): A fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



in which

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  are different and each represents  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{NHC}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl})_2$ .

-NHC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> hydroxyalkyl, -N(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino, piperidino or pyrrolidino residue or an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen has been removed from the amino group, each

R<sub>3</sub>, independently, represents hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxy and

M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine.

2. **(original)**: A composition according to claim 1, in which

R<sub>3</sub> represents hydrogen.

3. **(currently amended)**: A composition according to claims 1-~~or~~2, in which the aliphatic amino acid or amino acid amide residue is of the formula

-NR<sub>4</sub>-CH(CO<sub>2</sub>H)-R<sub>4</sub> (2) or -NR<sub>4</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CONH<sub>2</sub> (3),

in which each

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>', independently, represent hydrogen or a group having the formula

-CHR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub> in which

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub>, independently, are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, thio, methylthio, amino, carboxy, sulfo, phenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl, 3,5-diiodo-4-hydroxyphenyl, β-indolyl, β-imidazolyl and NH=C(NH<sub>2</sub>)NH-.

4. **(original)**: A composition according to claim 3, in which residues R<sub>1</sub> and/or R<sub>2</sub> are derived from glycine, alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine ((β-imidazolylalanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine, hydroxyglutamic acid and taurine, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine.

5. **(currently amended)**: A composition according to claims 1-~~or~~2, in which

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> represent -NHC<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, -N(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> hydroxyalkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino residue or a residue derived from glycine, sarcosine, taurine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid.

6. **(original):** A composition according to claim 5 in which

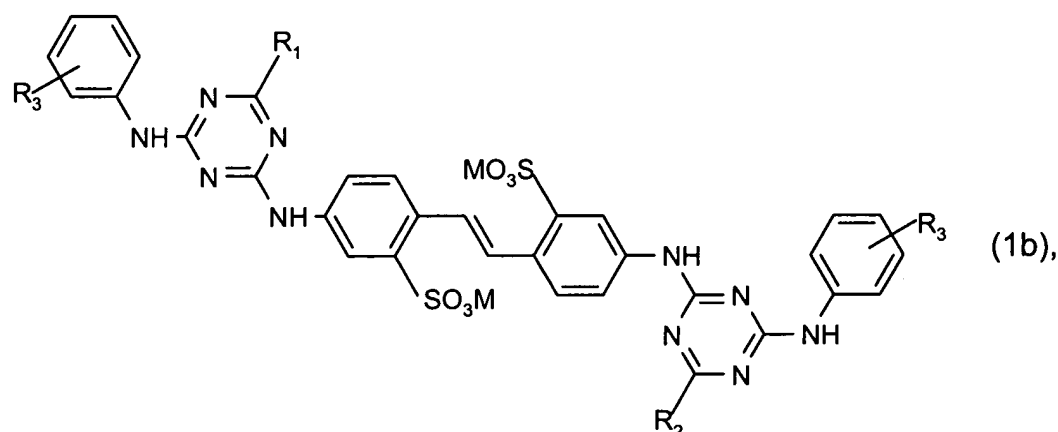
$R_1$  and  $R_2$  represent a mono-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino, a di-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino, a di-(2-hydroxypropyl)amino, an N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-methylamino, an aspartic acid, an iminodiacetic acid or a morpholino residue.

7. **(currently amended):** A composition according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1-~~to~~6, in which M represents hydrogen, lithium, potassium, sodium, ammonium, mono-, di-, tri- or tetra- $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkylammonium, mono-, di- or tri- $C_1$ - $C_4$ hydroxyalkylammonium or ammonium that is di- or tri-substituted with a mixture of  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_4$ hydroxyalkyl groups.

8. **(original):** A composition according to claim 7, in which M represents hydrogen, potassium or sodium.

9. **(original):** A process for the preparation of the compound mixture of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c) by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, aniline or an aniline derivative, an amino compound  $R_1H$  and an amino compound  $R_2H$ , or, alternatively a mixture of amino compounds  $R_1H$  and  $R_2H$ ,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  being as defined in claim 1.

10. **(original):** A compound of the formula



in which

$R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and M are as defined in claim 1.

11. **(currently amended):** ~~Use of a~~ A composition for whitening synthetic or natural organic materials, which composition contains water, a fluorescent whitening agent~~[[.]]-which comprises~~ comprising a mixture of the compounds (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 8,~~ and, optionally, one or more auxiliaries selected from the group consisting of dispersants, water retention aids, biocides and adjuvants. ~~, for whitening synthetic or natural organic materials.~~

12. **(currently amended):** ~~Use according to claim 11 as~~ A method for adding optical brightening agents for to paper which method comprises the step of applying a composition of claim 11 either to in a paper substrate in a pulp mass, to a paper substrate in a size-press, to a paper substrate in a metering press or contacting a paper surface with a coating application[[s]] comprising a composition of claim 11.

13. **(currently amended):** Paper, which has been optically brightened by a fluorescent whitening agent ~~the compound mixture of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c)~~ according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 8.~~

14. **(currently amended):** ~~Use according to claim 11,~~ A method for increasing the Sun Protection Factor (SPF) rating or for the fluorescent whitening of a textile fibre material~~[[s]]~~ which method comprises the step of treating said textile fiber material with a composition of claim 11.

15. **(currently amended):** A textile fabric produced from a fibre, which fibre is treated with the compound mixture of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 8.~~